

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Shelby Plooster
1st V.P. Burles Johnson
2nd V.P. Tommy Rhoden
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt



Club Mailing Address
Augusta Coin Club
P.O. Box 2084
Evans, GA 30809
Web site:
www.augustacoinclub.org

Special Duties
Webmaster: Robert Sanborn
Newsletter editor, Arno Safran
E-mail: arnosafran@comcast.net
Bourse Chairman, Steven Nix
Auction: Burles Johnson
Bids Recorder, Tommy Rhoden

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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Collecting interesting U.S. coinage during the mid 20th century; Part 3, from 1932 thru 1964 by Arno Safran

The End of Miss Liberty on our regular coinage



An 1935 Peace dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1935 Peace dollar would be the last U.S. coin that would display Miss Liberty. It was struck at the Philadelphia Mint with 1,576,000 produced and at the San Francisco Mint with 1,964,000. None was released at the Denver Mint. At that time, the Banks did not release the coins all at once but slowly over few years; so the 1935 dollar was thought to be rare at first and expensive to collectors.

Years later when many more 1935 Peace dollars stored at banks were released, and despite the larger mintages produced by the San Francisco mint, those struck at the Philadelphia Mint are currently more available and far less expensive with an MS-63 example like the coin shown above listed in the 2026 Red Book at \$275 retail compared with the 1935-S at \$675 in the same grade. **PCGS' COINFACTS** currently retails the 1935-P Peace-dollar grading MS-63 slightly higher at \$285 with the 1935-S at \$725.00.

The most recent P Mint example of a MS-63 specimen sold at a Stacks-Bowers auction sold for just \$165 while two 1935-S examples graded MS-63 recently sold at another Stacks-Bowers auction held back this past February, 2025 for \$504, but when shown, the coin appear heavily marred by darkish streaks across Miss Liberty's face. After that, all United States coins struck for circulated featured past presidents or respected politicians such as Benjamin Franklin.

The U.S. Quarter-dollars of 1932



A 1932-P Washington quarter certified MS-65 by NGC

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

In 1931, no quarters were struck as the nation was in the midst of the great depression. However, there were plans being made to honor the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth in the following year and a special committee approved an example of the Bust of George Washington by **Laura Gardin Fraser**, the wife of **James Earle Fraser** who created the Buffalo nickel in 1913. **Andrew Mellon** was the **Treasury Secretary** during this period and he preferred **John Flanagan's** obverse design of the new Washington quarter over Laura Garden Fraser's despite the fact that he had approved three of her early U.S. commemorative coins earlier.

The new Washington quarter was struck at all three mints in 1932. The Philadelphia Mint issue was the most common with 5,404,000 struck. The San Francisco Mint coined the least, 408,000 but it didn't circulate as much as the Denver Mint's production that was also small with just 436,800 produced. **Nonetheless, the 1932-D Washington quarter is the scarcest date in the entire Washington Quarter type series as shown struck from 1932 thru 1998.**



An 1932-D Washington quarter graded AU-58 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

This AU-58 specimen of the 1932-D Washington quarter shown directly above sold for \$800 at an auction held in 2018. **PCGS' COINFACTS** currently lists the current retail value at only \$850 in that grade but recent auctions realized goes from a low of \$600 all the way up to \$1,920, in which a 1932-D specimen graded AU-58 CAC sold at a Stacks-Bowers auction held in November, 2024. The author booted up the coin's picture and it didn't appear as nice as the one shown.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Early to Middle 20th Century U.S. Coinage



The 1938-D Buffalo nickel over the 1938-D Jefferson nickel
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

A law enacting that after 25 years the United States Mint could replace a new type of the same denomination was passed away back on September 26, 1890, so in 1938 the popular Indian Head Buffalo nickel which had been struck for 25 years since 1913 was replaced later in 1938 by the Jefferson nickel.

The two coin types shown above grade MS-64 with the Jefferson nickel displaying almost full steps on the reverse. The author chose these examples because the final striking of the Buffalo nickel was only struck at the Denver Mint in 1938 while the new Jefferson nickel was coined at all three mints.

Felix Schlag won the new Jefferson nickel design out of 390 artists. However, his original reverses looked quite different from the reverse of the example shown above.



Felix Schlag's design of the Jefferson nickel
Showing his original reverse

Below are two photo angles of Thomas Jefferson's self-designed home of Monticello



Enlarge page to 150% view the above more clearly.

The Old and the Newer U.S. Coinage during WW II



An Uncirculated set of the U.S. Coins of 1943 struck at the Philadelphia Mint slightly reduced in size to fit the column!
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The United States entered WWII on December 7, 1941 after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt made his speech against Adolph Hitler and Germany declaring war on both nations which Congress quickly approved the following day. **Franklin Delano Roosevelt was serving his third term as our 32nd president of the United States after years of dealing with the Great depression and is one of the most popular presidents in the history of our nation.**



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

By 1943, our coinage was in the full second year of WW II and minor changes regarding the alloys of our cent and nickel denominations were being made.



A 1943 Steel strike Lincoln cent struck at the Philadelphia Mint
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

By 1943, the U.S.A. needed copper during the conflict so the U.S. mint used **zinc coated steel** instead of the bronze copper to make Lincoln cents, such as the brilliant uncirculated example shown above. The coin was struck at all three Mints, Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco. The change/over lasted only one year. **Somehow, a small handful of bronze 1943 cents were made which are extremely rare and costly today if they are legitimate.** However, there are a goodly number of Counterfeit bronze pieces appearing as 1943's that were created which a magnet will reveal as counterfeits.



An 1943 Jefferson nickel with the mintmark, P atop the reverse
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

(Continued on page 3, column one)

The U.S. Coinage of 1943 during WW II

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1943-P Jefferson nickel with full steps graded MS-68 by PCGS
(Courtesy of PCGS' COINFACTS)
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

One of the aspects of acquiring Jefferson nickels has been the desire to find specimens displaying full steps below the entrance to Monticello. The coin shown directly above is one such specimen whereas the example displayed as part of the author's 1943 year set on the bottom of the previous page does not. So, let's enlarge the coin to see exactly what "full steps" mean.



The same 1943-P Jefferson nickel with full steps graded MS-68 by PCGS enlarged
(Courtesy of PCGS' COINFACTS)

When enlarged, the 1943-P Jefferson nickel graded MS-68 displays its full "Gem" quality and is worthy of its higher value than most BU nickels of this type.

The 1943 Mercury dime Enlarged



If one enlarges the 17.9 mm Mercury dime 220% as shown directly above, the reader will observe the author's example of the 1943 issue shown graded MS-66 as part of the 1943 BU year set shown on page 2, column 2, displays full bands on the reverse. Despite the war the Philadelphia mint struck 191,710,000 *Mercury* dimes, the second most of the entire series struck from 1916 thru 1945. Neither the Washington quarter nor the Walking Liberty half-dollar displays features that affect their value other than their normal grade.

Just three years later, in 1946, the *Mercury* dime would be replaced by another outstanding American leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt who passed away in April 12, 1945 only one month before Germany surrendered to the allied armies on May 7, 1945.

The change in our Dime



An 1946 PCGS Roosevelt dime graded MS-67 full bands by PCGS

Due to the popularity of President Franklin Roosevelt and his desire to assist thousands of Americans who were victims of Infantile Paralysis (Polio), a new dime in his name was created by John R. Sinnock who was our Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint at that time. Roosevelt would be the fourth U.S. president to appear on our coinage. The coin was struck in .90% silver and 10% copper with a 17.9 mm like the dimes that preceded it going all the way back to 1837 when the Liberty Seated dime replaced the Capped Bust dime that same year.



A 1943 Walking Liberty half-dollar grading MS-64
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

There's nothing particularly special about this **1943-P Walking Liberty Half-dollar** which was first coined in 1916 except that it had the largest mintage of all the Walking Liberty halves in the entire series with 53,190,000 struck that year. Adolph Weinman designed both the *Mercury* dime and Walking Liberty half-dollar away back in 1916 when Miss Liberty was still appearing on most of our coinage. In 1948, after 154 years, she was replaced on the half-dollar by another American leader of the pre Revolutionary era, Benjamin Franklin.



An 1948-D Franklin Half-dollar graded MS-64 FBL by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The Franklin half dollar was struck for the first time in 1948. It was struck only at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The San Francisco Mint coined its first Franklin halves in 1949 and produced them each year thru 1954. Due to the poor lighting the full bell lines on the reverse on the 1948-D specimen did not bring out the details as desired.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

The new U.S. Coinage after WWII



A 1950-D Franklin Half-dollar graded MS-64 with Full Bands
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The 1950-D Franklin half dollar shown directly above is slightly sharper than the 1948-D example shown on the previous page but the photo still lacks the full sharpness of the minor features when held in hand. The Walking Liberty half-dollar had been struck for 33 consecutive years so a new coin type was suggested by the current Mint

Director, Nellie Tayloe Ross—who was an admirer of Benjamin Franklin's contributions to America as a scientist who was also an ambassador and politician during the late 18th century—and asked John R. Sinnock who was Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint at the time to create a new half-dollar coin honoring Benjamin Franklin. If one examines the coin more closely they will see how that “**Proclaim**

Liberty throughout all the Land Unto all the inhabitants thereof”—Leviticus 25:10 is unreadable.

Sinnock's creation of the coin is extremely well balanced, akin in some ways to Charles Barber's approach and attractive to the eye in the grade shown.

The Franklin Half-dollar was not all that popular during the 13 years it was produced but today, due to its many common dates, many young coin numismatists enjoy collecting them since many are affordable certified MS-64, even some with full bell lines on the reverse. **The key date** of the series is the **1953-S with full bell lines**.



A 1964 Kennedy half-dollar graded MS-65 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

As a result of the shocking Assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 the nation was in deep mourning. Congress approved Mrs. Jackie Kennedy's request that a new half-dollar be made in his name. Despite the fact that the Franklin half was struck only 13 years and not the normal 25, the changeover was approved. **During the same period the price of silver was rising beyond the means of our silver coinage, so President Linden Baines Johnson signed a law replacing all silver coinage with cupro-nickel “or clad” metal coinage beginning in 1965 on the dime, quarter and the half-dollar; the latter still worth 40% silver thru the year, 1970 before becoming 100% clad from 1971 on.**

The 1964 Kennedy half-dollar shown above was the very last year silver coinage was struck as money in the U.S.A. Most Kennedy halves including the 1964 silver issue hardly circulate. The Brilliant uncirculated coin shown above sold at a recent auction according to PCGS CoinFacts. It cost the winning bidder only \$35.00.

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING April 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 44 members present and 3 guests present.

The Secretary's Report:

The March 20, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have \$11,500.00 deposited in the checking account.

The Prize Winners:

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$65.00 was Tommy Rhoden. Brent Usry and Tim Watkins each won a one oz. Silver Eagle.

Our Upcoming Spring Coin Show May 16th (Friday) and May 17th (Saturday) 2025 Steve Nix - Bourse Chairman.

The Spring Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Walmart at exit 190. The dealers can set up Thursday night from 4 pm to 8 pm. Mr. Sammy Lucky will provide our postcards that we will be mailed. Thank you, Mr. Lucky! Please sign up to help manage the front desk. Our Fall Coin Show netted \$692.42.

Show and Tell:

Member Everitt Price displayed 4 uncut \$10 dollar Star notes.

The Program:

Arno Safran's program was on “**Collecting at least one U.S. type coin ending in 1 by the decade.**”

His program **started with an 1801 Draped Bust Large Cent** graded Fine 12 all the way up to the Sacagawea Brass plated \$1.00 coin dated 2001.

Unfortunately, the newly acquired PowerPoint projector was unable to display most of the scarcer early U.S. coins due to the late April afternoon sunlight; so only the last twenty of the 30 coins appeared clearly visible once the sun had set. Due to the problem, here are some of the U.S. coins that were displayed.



An 1801 Draped Bust dollar graded XF-40 created by Robert Scot
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]
It cost only \$850 back in 1994. Today it costs \$4,000.

Arno's Program (continued from page 4, column 2)



An 1811 Classic Head half-cent, C-2, R4 graded VG-8

Arno explained that the 1811 half-cent had a mintage of only 63,140 pieces and was the scarcest coin of the early Capped Bust ½ cent series designed by John Reich.



An 1821 Capped Bust half-dollar graded AU-53 by PCGS

He said the 1821 50c piece had a mintage of 1,305,797 and while the coin wasn't a rare, it had tremendous eye appeal. He acquired the coin at the American Numismatic Association's summer convention held in Atlanta back in July, 2001.



An 1861 Indian Head Copper-nickel small cent graded MS-64 by NGC. The coin was struck during the earlier period of the Civil War and Arno acquired it at our club's show in May, 2010.



An 1861 Liberty Seated quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS

Arno related that he had acquired the 1861 Quarter at a more recent Augusta Coin Club show held in May, 2018.



An 1871 Two cent Bronze piece graded AU-58 Brown

Arno said he acquired this late date **1871 two-cent copper piece** away back in January, 1989 at the Ocean County Coin Club show when he was still living in New Jersey.



An 1891 Liberty Seated half-dollar graded MS-62 by PCGS

Arno told the membership that 1891 was the last year the Liberty Seated dime, quarter and half-dollar were coined and he acquired the half-dollar shown above at the FUN Show held in Orlando Florida back in Jan. 2009. It looks like an MS-64.



An Uncirculated 1901 Barber three piece years set

Arno explained that all three silver coins engraver Charles Barber produced circulated heavily back then and only the wealthy could keep uncirculated specimens. Today, such specimens are costly!



A 1921 Liberty Standing quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS
A scarcer date with only 1,916,000 quarters struck that year.



A 1921 Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS

Arno explained that in 1921 there was a post WW1 recession that lasted about two years and the 1921 silver coinage was struck in very low numbers and is expensive today especial in mint-state. Both 1921 coins have risen in price substantially since Arno acquired them.

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

Arno's Program (continued from page 5, column 2)

**The three affordable BU coins of 1931
The Lincoln cent, Buffalo nickel and Mercury dime**

Arno said that due to the Great Depression—which was already deeper by 1931—**there were only three denominations dated that year which were reasonably priced as shown above with the exception of the extremely rare \$20 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold double eagle, not shown.** After that, he ran through most of the later coins ending in 1 quickly because they were all extremely common.

President Shelby presented Arno a certificate for his fine program

New Business:

Shelby wished teen member, Isabelle Smith a Happy Birthday. Shelby sent a sign-in sheet for volunteers for the front desk at our coin show on May 15, 2025. Shelby stated you must be a paid member to win a door prize.

Old Business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. Red books from Leaphart Coins will be available for a cost of \$12.

Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin. Members, Please pay your dues. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting on February 18, 2025. Rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from 50 dollars a meeting to 200 dollars a meeting.

Upcoming Coin Shows:

GNA Show	April 11-13, 2025
Dalton, GA	
Atlanta Monthly Show	May 4, 2025
Marietta, GA	
Augusta Coin Club Show	May 16-17, 2025
Grovetown, GA	
West GA Coin Show	May 30-31, 2025
Carrollton, GA	

Our Monthly Club's Coin Auction:

Burles Johnson ran the auction (10 lots). Everett Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods as the auction was carried on; therefore, speeding up the auction. Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

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